

Council turns back on outside community, focuses on university issues

by Paul Clark

Decisions at the past two Dalhousie student council meetings indicate this year's council will limit its involvement in the outside community, focusing instead on student and university issues.

At the meeting of October 28 the council executive reported a request from the Retail Clerks Union Local 1973, currently on strike against Capitol Warehouse operations in Burnside, that council pass a motion urging its members to boycott Capitol. Council elected not to pass such a motion, citing insufficient information and a belief that such a motion would be outside council's scope.

At last Sunday's meeting council voted against giving Project Ploughshares, a non-student organization, a grant of \$100 to help fund a conference on Canadian foreign policy in the 80s at St. Mary's University later on this month. Councillors objected to setting a precedent of funding non-student groups, as well as the limited involvement in the conference by Dalhousie students.

During last Sunday's

discussion councillor treasurer Scott MacLeod observed that council's granting policy was the culmination of a ten year trend of increasing inwardness. Since 1970-71, when half of council's grants were given to outside groups, this portion of the grants budget has steadily inclined, finally reaching zero last year. Two years ago council donated \$300 to Ploughshares.

It was pointed out that last year's grants chairperson Jim Wentzyl recommended in his year-end report that this trend be reversed, but the Grants committee, which had earlier denied Ploughshares the grant, said they had not yet had time to discuss this recommendation.

Ploughshares representative Cathie McDonald, a Dalhousie student, had earlier said the conference would discuss ways Canada can take steps in furthering arms control and forestalling a world-wide nuclear holocaust. She said it was important for young people going out in the world to be aware of these issues and asked for council's support in increasing public awareness of an issue so crucial to the survival of our

race.

Some councillors supported giving the grant.

"I'm very much in favour of the conference and think we have to be very careful regarding arguments against precedents," said grad rep Peter Rans. "I think we should judge each case by its merits. This conference is of particular interest to students and we should be involved in it."

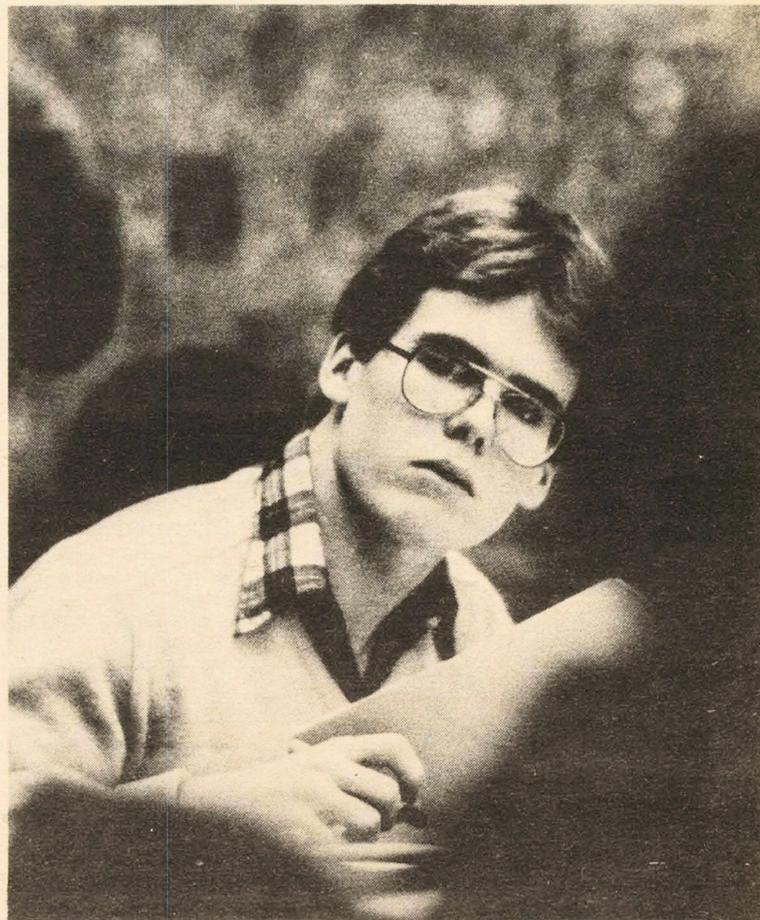
Science representative Atu Sharma charged council with following a path of "dangerous isolationism."

Council is part of a larger community, he said, and he urged councillors to remember this. "I don't see this motion (to give the grant) as creating a precedent compromising the interests of the students."

Health Professions representative Marie Gilkinson agreed precedents need not bind council but said in many cases they set a policy which is hard to reverse.

"We end up tying ourselves in knots and have to be here every week arguing about grants," she said.

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"People have aldermen, members of parliament who can represent them on broader issues"-council v.p. Jeff Champion

the Dalhousie Gazette

Volume 113

Number 4

October 9, 1980

DFA negotiations are stalemated

by Paul Creelman

The contract negotiations between the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) and administration have taken far too long, according to Chris Axworthy, chief negotiator of the DFA.

"Our first choice is negotiation at the bargaining table," says Axworthy.

"You would think that at a

university that we could all sit down and work things out like intelligent men. However, when that process of negotiation for any given article or clause doesn't produce satisfactory progress, then we have to look at things to be done away from the table."

Axworthy says that the presentation of a petition to President McKay two weeks ago was a first step in what

may be a series of such moves to expedite the contract talks.

Dr. David Cameron, one of the Board of Governor's negotiators, says that the administration wants a speedy resolution of the negotiations.

"Our basic position is that we would hope this situation would be resolved in time for the salary increases for faculty to come through for next year. This means that we'd have to wrap things up in a matter of weeks to meet the payroll deadline for December."

However, salary increases are still at issue in contract negotiations. DFA negotiator Axworthy says that the salary increases offered by the administration don't amount to enough to account for inequities that the administration itself has recognized.

"The Career Review Committee, which is an administrative body, reported last year that a good proportion of the 650 or so faculty members were being paid

below scale. Money was put aside to allow for salary increases, but not enough to raise everyone's salary to the standard. So the University has actually admitted that these people aren't being paid up to scale, but they don't want to put up the amount of money needed," says Axworthy.

Dr. Cameron would not comment on any of the issues on the bargaining table. According to the DFA negotiating report, there are several other issues still to be resolved, including quotas for promotion in the library systems, job protection, and the affirmative action program.

Dr. Cameron is not totally optimistic about a speedy resolution of talks, either.

"I can say for sure that if the DFA won't move from its present position on any of its demands, then we won't have a quick resolution of the contract."

This statement echoed the

sentiment of President MacKay, who said last week in regard to the talks, that it "takes two to tango, and two to reach a settlement." In preparation for a lengthy stalling of contract talks, the DFA is looking at its alternatives, according to Axworthy.

"If there doesn't seem to be any progress in the talks, then there are various avenues open to us to persuade the administration of the seriousness of our position and the support of the DFA members," says Axworthy.

Exactly how effective such strategies as petitioning petitions or phone-ins will be is doubtful, however. Stronger tactics such as a legal strike or lock-out do not seem to be in the cards at the moment, at least according to Dr. Cameron, who states that none of the legal warning signs of such action have been detected as yet.

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